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(54) Title: IN-SITU TREATMENT OF PYRIDINE-2,3-DICARBOXYLIC ACID ESTERS WITH AN OXIDIZING AGENT

(57) Abstract: A method for the in-situ treatment of a pyridine-2,3-dicarboxylic acid ester with an oxidizing agent, such as hydrogen peroxide, to improve product quality is provided. The method for the in-situ removal of impurities from a saponified solution of pyridine-2,3-dicarboxylic acid ester comprises the steps of providing a solution of pyridine-2,3-dicarboxylic acid ester, saponifying the solution with a base to form the corresponding pyridine-2,3-dicarboxylic acid salt, reacting the solution with an oxidizing agent in an amount effective to remove impurities, acidifying the solution with an acid to convert the pyridine-2,3-dicarboxylic acid into the corresponding pyridine-2,3-dicarboxylic acid, and collecting a purified solution comprising pyridine-2,3-dicarboxylic acid. Further provided is a method for the preparation of herbicidal 2-(2-imidazolin-2-yl)nicotinic acids, esters, and salts by using a pyridine-2,3-dicarboxylic acid salt prepared by the above method as an intermediate.

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